

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Claims 1-25 (canceled).

26. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which:

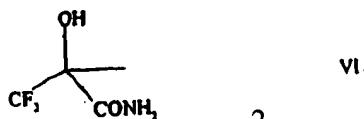
- (i) hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 1, wherein said stringent hybridization conditions include hybridization at temperatures of between 60°C and 70°C and a salt content of 0.5 to 1.5 M; and
- (ii) encodes a polypeptide having amidohydrolase activity capable of hydrolysing (R)-3, 3, 3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methylpropionamide of the formula:



27. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule capable of encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 2.

28. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 1.

29. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule capable of encoding a functionally equivalent variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 2 wherein said variant retains the ability to hydrolyse (R)-3, 3, 3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methylpropionamide of the formula:



30. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 wherein the functionally equivalent variant is selected from the group consisting of a deletion, insertion or substitution of nucleotide sequences.

31. (new) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a Hind III fragment which contains nucleotide sequences which:

- (i) hybridize under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 1 wherein said stringent hybridization conditions include hybridization at temperatures of between 60°C and 70°C and a salt content of 0.5 to 1.5 M; and
- (ii) are characterized by the restriction map as shown in Figure 1.

32. (new) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 31.

33. (new) The recombinant vector of claim 31 wherein said vector is pPRS7.

34. (new) The recombinant vector of claim 31 wherein said vector is pPRS4.

35. (new) The recombinant vector of claim 31 wherein said vector is pPRS2a.

36. (new) A microorganism containing the recombinant vector of claim 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35.

37. (new) The microorganism of claim 36 wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genus *Escherichia*, *Pseudomonas*, *Comamonas*, *Acinetobacter*, *Rhizobium*/*Agrobacterium*, *Rhizobium*, *Bacillus*, *Rhodococcus* or *Agrobacterium*.

38. (new) The microorganism of claim 37 wherein said *Escherichia coli* is *Escherichia coli* DH5.

39. (new) The microorganism of claim 38 wherein said *Escherichia coli* is XL1-Blue MRF®.